



Islamic terrorists are children of rich classes and ideology

Toh, terrorism is not a child of poverty but it's rich stuff. Beyond the rich kids of Bangladesh. The more egalitarian countries of Europe are turning out to be the largest number of Isis fighters.

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4th of July 2016 at 06:15



Rome. Bangladesh, albeit in strong economic growth, is one of the poorest countries in the world, a favorite destination of delocalized textile manufacturing and a symbol of the exploitation of the global underclass. The explanation of the massacre of Dacca, in which 20 hostages were killed, including nine Italians and two policemen, must therefore be part of the scheme of the reaction of the masses dispossessed to the social hardship imposed by Western globalization. Instead the biography of the terrorists reveals that the murderers of the Holey Artisan Bakery are scions of the Bengali ruling class, sons of politicians, soldiers, teachers, educated in the most prestigious schools in the country.

If the media this time underlines the social origins of the mujaheddin, it is because there is a certain surprise in receiving the news that the Islamist torturers come from the well-to-do classes and not from the disadvantaged classes. Yet the profiles of important figures of Islamic terrorism - Bin Laden, al-Zawahiri, Mohamed Atta, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, and Awlaki - all educated and coming from a well-to-do context, would have had to make our amazement vanish for a long time. Several studies have been produced on the reasons that push people towards Islamic radicalism and under no circumstances emerges that it is

poverty and inequality to supply troops to terrorism, as it supports a large part of the Western intellectual class, starting from the reflections of the economist Thomas Piketty or Pope Francis in Nairobi after the Bataclan massacre.

In the paper entitled "What explains the flow of foreign fighters to Isis?" Published by the National Bureau of Economic Research, Benmelech and Klor relate data on the 30 thousand foreign fighters with the economic indicators of the countries of origin and conclude that "the economic conditions of poverty do not push for ISIS membership ". In contrast, the number of foreign fighters is positively correlated with the per capita GDP and the Human Development Index: "Many foreign fighters come from countries with high levels of economic development and low income inequality". Finland is the state that produces the highest number of Islamic fighters in the world in relation to the Muslim population, a country that is the three richest and most egalitarian in the world. In the top ten there are Ireland, Belgium, Sweden, Austria, Denmark and Norway, responding to the same identikit of Finland. The number of militants on the resident Muslim population also "is negatively correlated with economic inequality, not highly correlated with unemployment. These results - they conclude in the research - contradict the recent affirmations of Thomas Piketty ", according to which terrorism is the son of inequality and austerity.

Even if you add new elements, you can not even say that this research leads to revolutionary conclusions, given that the literature on the subject is quite unique. Already Alan Krueger, Princeton's liberal economist and Barack Obama consultant, in the book "What makes a terrorist" had stated on the basis of an empirical analysis that "terrorists come from the ranks of the most educated people rather than the ignorant and uneducated masses ". Alberto Abadie, economist at Harvard, in the study "Poverty, Political Freedom, and the Roots of Terrorism" reaches similar conclusions. Even Abadie in his empirical survey on national and international terrorism claims that "terrorism risk is not higher in poor countries" and that "there is no significant association between terrorism and economic variables such as income". It is not the first analysis that reaches such conclusions. Studying the kind of link between poverty and terrorism in Palestine, Claude Berrebi had already noted that a better standard of living and a high level of education are positively associated with participation in organizations such as Hamas or Islamic Jihad and the propensity to become a bomber. Also Krueger - in another study with Jitka Malecková on crimes related to terrorism in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and militancy in Hezbollah - argues that "neither poverty nor education have a direct or causal impact on terrorism". Claude Berrebi had already noted that a better standard of living and a high level of education are positively associated with participation in organizations such as Hamas or Islamic Jihad and the propensity to become a bomber. Also Krueger - in another study with Jitka Malecková on crimes related to terrorism in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and militancy in Hezbollah - argues that "neither poverty nor education

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If they are not poverty, inequality and ignorance, what is the gas of terrorism? Benmelech and Klor see a correlation with the difficulty of integrating into the most ethnically homogeneous countries and conclude by saying that "even if we are not able to determine why people join ISIS, our results suggest that the flow of foreign fighters towards 'Isis does not derive from political or economic conditions, but rather from political and religious ideology ". In short, Islamic terrorism - as the term would suggest - has to do with political Islam, with the ideological-cultural background rather than with economic conditions.